



FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

STOP PRESS ! STOP PRESS ! ££££'s

Fulbourn Village History Society are delighted to announce that their application for a grant to fund research into the history and origins of the village of Fulbourn has been successful.

On 8 May 2002 the Society was awarded £25,000 by the Local Heritage Initiative and also received £2,031 from a Nationwide Building Society award. The LHI is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency. Although FVHS is responsible for administering the grant, it is intended that interested individuals, local groups and societies have an active involvement in the project. Members and the inhabitants of Fulbourn will be kept up-to-date with developments and of the many opportunities to participate. For more information contact Glynis Arber, 28 The Haven, Fulbourn, (tel.01223 570887).

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE AGM..

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17 May so if you missed it, here's the Annual Report 2001/2002:

Peter Halton has agreed to take over from Richard Townley the Chairmanship of the Society and Geoffrey Rolph, Tim Malim, David Wright and Linda Halton have all stood down from the Committee. The Committee for the coming year will be:

Chairman: Peter Halton
Vice-Chairman Norman Osborne
Secretary: Glynis Arber
Treasurer: Rachel Thompson
Membership: Pauline Hunt
Conservator: Richard Doe
Fundraising: Ivy Smith
Records: Pat White

Tony Goodall, Bernie Gilbertson, Barbara White, Jackie Newall, Bryan White, Richard Townley. Linda Halton has been co-opted to the Committee and will continue to write the Newsletter.

The Society continues to flourish and membership has increased to 186. Average attendance at all meetings has been 80. The Society's Constitution states that its objectives are "To research, keep and maintain records of all aspects of the village's social and historical development; to publish reports on village history; to stage displays and exhibitions;

to hold a programme of regular meetings; to liaise with the Parish Council and to encourage an interest in the study of local history." The programme this past year has comprised yet another successful annual summer visit arranged by Norman Osborne, this time to Ashdon Village Museum; 29 members spent a very enjoyable afternoon viewing the exhibits at this gem of a Museum. Over 100 members attended the successful Christmas meeting, held in the Townley Hall, when John Humphreys, former Assistant Warden of Bottisham Village Cottage, regaled his audience with some very funny and poignant Tales from the Fens. The following monthly lecture programme was arranged for the winter months:

*40 Years a Thatcher,
History of Timber-framed Buildings,
Hunter's Fen: 20th century Tales from the Fens,
College Servants in 19th century,
Creating Meaning from Family History,
A History of the Fire Service & Victorian Cambs.*

The subscription has remained unchanged for the past two years, at £10 for couples, £6 individuals and £3 for under-16s.

In the pursuance of saving the village's history for the future, members Bernie Gilbertson and Barbara White continue to visit those members of our community who have volunteered to commit to the tape recorder their memories of the past. Members of the Society took part in the Archaeological Training Dig, at the moat site in the Nature Reserve, in August 2001. The results are still being assessed and it is hoped to repeat the dig again this year. Three members - Joyce Shingler, Mary Bunting and John Patten have offered their computer and data input skills and regularly visit the History Hut to enter archive records on to the computer. The Committee has also been very pleased to accept the offer by member Richard Doe to act as its Conservator. A well attended exhibition to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee was mounted in The Stables at The Manor between 1 - 4 June. A Newsletter has continued to appear every four months and this is distributed to the membership by six volunteers. We sincerely thank everyone who has helped the Society in any way during the past year; we value their continued help & support. A programme of seven lecture meetings has been arranged for next winter and a visit to the Farmland Museum is planned for July 2002. Sales of The Fulbourn Chronicles and Highways & Byways continue to be made.



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Summer
2002

At Cromwell Museum, Grammar School Walk, Huntingdon:

In Cromwell's day ...

A series of free living history events, with costumed interpreters to explain a specific craft or trade of the 17th century, linked to the museum. Every third Saturday of the month from April to September, at the Museum from 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m

20 July Scrivener
17 August Swordsman
21 September Posy & Pomander making

Special Event for Young People 15-17 August

All the King's Men

A three-day drama workshop on a theme connected to the Civil War and Huntingdon. A chance to learn stage fighting and create your own piece of drama and perform it, all in three days. Suitable for 8-12 year olds. £15 per person.

2002 Exhibitions at Huntingdon

9 July - 3 November

A New Image of Cromwell

How a new figure was created for the City of London.

The Museum is open all year and admission is free.

Fulbourn Village History Society:

Visit to Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey,
Ely Road, Waterbeach

Saturday 27 July - A letter will be sent to everyone

FROM THE ARCHIVES

HISTORY OF FULBOURN SCHOOL 1859-1872 part II

(Part 1 of this article appeared in the Spring Newsletter. The authoress is Pippa White, who was 11 years old when she wrote it.)

In those days the teacher chose two of the oldest pupils to be teachers. They were called pupil teachers. They were paid two shillings a week rising to six shillings a week. If they were pupil teachers for five years they became a teacher. The first pupil teachers were Henrietta Hunt and Fanny Riches.

In March 1864 a map of America was given to the school. In this month the school hours were extended half an hour. The first caretaker was Miss Halls. The second was Mrs Peachey. The lime trees up the lane were planted from 1861 - 1863.

The children sat on hard benches. The teacher sat on a very high stool with a very high desk. She had a cane in her hand. The children had slates on their laps. The older ones practised copper-plate handwriting; some of them had exercise books not slates. The younger ones did single letters in copperplate. They had the same lessons in the same order every day. They had to learn parts of the Bible off by heart and the Catechism as

well. Every week the Rector used to come and test them on these. Sometimes they went to church to do them. They very rarely did arithmetic. They had a lot of geography; it was Miss Smith's favourite lesson. The sanitation and lighting in the school were poor. They got their water from a pump outside. In winter it frequently froze up. They had paraffin lamps.

In the afternoon they always did needlework. This was to pay for the school. They took their own material but Mrs Townley supplied other things. Either Mrs Townley, her daughters or the rector's wife came to help. No children were allowed to write with their left hands. They were beaten for this.

Punishments were being locked in a dark cupboard (this was usually a punishment for the girls) or they were kept in after school to do work and were caned. Caning was a very harsh one. They couldn't daydream or look out of the windows. The windows were very high and the glass was frosted. If they daydreamed they were caned.

They had no P.E. games or play times. They worked solidly from 9 am - midday and 2 pm - 4 pm. In 1864 the time was put up from 4 to 4.30 p.m.

There was a harvest holiday when the harvest came, so that the children could help their parents. Children were absent for other reasons: illness, ploughing-time, seed-time and some played truant. There was a week off for the Fulbourn Feast. Everybody ate so much and drank so much they were ill. Sometimes Miss Smith would teach them a hymn or a religious song.
Pippa White (aged 11)

DID YOU KNOW?

BITES OF MAD DOGS

Among the papers of the Townley Family of Fulbourn Manor, now lodged in the Cambridgeshire County Record Office, is the following charm against the bite of a mad dog; a copy is preserved in the Cambridge Folk museum. The Charm for the madd-dogg is to be wrote upon a piece of cheese pairing or little rowle of paper and given the doggs bit to eate, that which is wrote on paper we made up in butter, ye words Oribus diebus vivas vives, minas mines a popular quare, the commaes & the diphthong at last must be observed. The doggerel Latin of this and many other charms is probably a dimly remembered memory of pre-Reformation Church Latin.



CHARITY CUSTOMS

William Farmer of Fulbourn, who died in 1732, bequeathed his estate to found a perpetual charity in the

parish, the income from the land to be distributed to poor people every Sunday in the church of All Saints. In his will, dated 3 March 1912, he directed that only those who attended church regularly and "there behaved themselves with the utmost gravity and seriousness" should be eligible to receive alms and he left it to the discretion of the Vicar and the Churchwardens to select such people.

The Charity Commissioners reported in 1837 that the distribution of the Farmer's Charity was restricted to married persons with families, widows and widowers, their names being written on tickets which were placed in a bag and then drawn by lot. Anyone whose name was drawn and who answered to it on its being read aloud, received sixpence. The drawn tickets were then put into another bag and later drawn in the same way when the first bag was empty. When the Commissioners inquired why the money was not distributed in regular rotation they were told that many people would attend church only when their turn came around.

The Commissioners suggested that tickets might be given and exchanged for money once or twice a year; this would mean that fewer people would attend church solely for the purpose of receiving the charity. The Vicar, however, did not wish to see his congregation diminished and said that, in his opinion, the old system had "a good moral tendency", the correctness of which opinion, stated the Commissioners, "appears from the evidence extremely questionable". They had in the course of their enquiries been told that the charity money was often spent in the alehouse "with more in addition" and that a publican, since deceased, who had been a schoolmaster in the village and who sometimes distributed the money, used to try to persuade those who received it to spend it in his tavern.

The system of issuing tickets to be redeemed twice-yearly for cash was later adopted and is still in use, the value of the sum paid out being according to the total number of tickets returned, the income from the capital being divided by this number. The majority of those who, on attending Matins and Evensong, received tickets, give the money back to the church "even old-age pensioners and widows" says the present Rector of Fulbourn, the Rev. A B Swallow "who appreciated this opportunity of giving extra help to their church which otherwise they might be unable to do."

WRIGHT'S CLOCK LAND

In 1525, by deed poll, Robert Wright and Robert Casbred of Fulbourn gave to certain people 13 acres of land - Wright's Clock Land - directing that the profits be spent on repairing and keeping in good order the clock of St Vigor's Church and on ringing the curfew and day bell yearly from Michaelmas to St Martin's Day. The Charity Commissioners reported in 1837 that 13s was being paid for winding the clock and ringing the bell four times a day; 11s was being spent

on an annual dinner, whilst any surplus was devoted to repairing and improving the clock, steeple and tower of the church.

CHURCH TAXES

Geoffrey, Bishop of Fulbourn in 1474, bequeathed land to his executors directing that the rents thereof were to be used for paying Peter Pence and Ely Farthing for the whole of Fulbourn so that the inhabitants should be freed from these taxes for ever. (Peter Pence and Ely Farthing was a penny paid at the Feast of St Peter to the See of Rome. The tax was collected in England from 740 AD until it was abolished by Henry VIII).

VILLAGE NICKNAMES

As a boy I lived at the, as then, far end of the village, off Pierce Lane down a track or footpath called Town Close, behind the house of Mrs Swallow, wife of the late Rev. Arnold Swallow Vicar of St Vigor's. After a fire burnt down our house and that of our neighbour, Mrs Brand, we moved up to School Lane at the other end of the village. Knowing no-one I came across some strange names as I thought: one man was called Wheelo and it appeared that he made and repaired bicycles - his true name was Mr Beckett. Another man was called Chocolate and how he got that name I do not know but he was really Mr Richmond. Leggy Nichols was another man I recall and it was assumed he could run fast. There are two names whose origin I still do not know - they were father and son, father was called Treacle and the son Jammy!! Maybe they had a sweet tooth. One of the strangest was Laddle, a great character often seen cycling through the village with half a tree balanced on his shoulder, for firewood I shouldn't wonder. There were many others - Clutch Harris, Bragger Brown, Tug Mason, Hoppy Smith, Suet Rule. It would be interesting to know the origin of these nicknames so if anyone out there can throw light on the names quoted above please let the History Society know.

Norman Osborne

TAILPIECE

Perhaps the more observant readers will have noted a difference on the presentation of this newsletter. Part of the new look is a 'device' at the top left hand corner of the front page. The Society does not currently have a logo and it has been suggested that this would be convenient in establishing an immediate visual identity which would be useful in many applications. The device shown here is one of several suggested logos. No decision has been made but what do you think? Do you agree that a logo would be beneficial? Do you understand the relevance to the Society of the suggestion shown? Do you have ideas of your own for a possible logo which would encapsulate the objectives, activities and location of the Society? If so please contact your newly appointed Hon. Secretary (on 01223 570887) for your thoughts and ideas to be presented to the Committee for consideration.

WHERE'S MY PROGRAMME?

If you have renewed your subscription but have not received a copy of the forthcoming programme, please contact Membership Secretary Pauline Hunt on 882088 who will be pleased to provide you with a copy.

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

On 16 March Norman Osborne and myself attended a Family History Day at Impington Village College. The day was organised by the Cambridge Family History Society and we were very surprised to see on our arrival for a 9.00 a.m. start a long queue reminiscent of the Antiques Roadshow stretching right across the playground!

Once inside things moved quickly and we collected the tokens for our chosen lectures; there were nine on offer and attendees could choose three. I had chosen to go first to a lecture on the Use of Newspapers in Researching Family History. Then, after an excellent ploughman's lunch, I had chosen to learn about Deciphering Old Handwriting. All my group had a go at reading some 16th century invoices and wills and we all agreed we needed more practise!

Between lectures we browsed amongst the various stalls selling books and pamphlets and aids to research. At the end of the day both Norman and I agreed we'd had a good time and look forward to next year's Family History Day.

VICTORIAN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

At our April meeting we were given a real treat with the visit of Mike Petty to give an illustrated talk on life in Cambridgeshire during the Victorian era. Mike is of course well-known as a regular columnist in the local press on local history matters and has spent many years in the library service as well as being engaged on a consultative basis. He is also a very accomplished speaker and as such he has an obvious and most impressive command of the subject.

However, impressive knowledge alone does not necessarily confer the ability to pass that knowledge on in a compulsive and entertaining manner. With Mike's discourse this was in no sense a problem. It would be difficult to find a more informative and entertaining speaker and those who attended were given a rare treat. Not only was the matter of every day life given an authoritative and exhaustive treatment, backed up with a great number of fascinating slides but Mike managed to bring the past very much alive with his wry observations, not only on events but on attitudes, illustrating that many human values, foibles and frailties have changed very little over the years. His obvious familiarity and intense enthusiasm for this subject was infectious and aspects such as employment, travel, agriculture, commerce, housing, coprolite mining, notable events etc. etc. were delivered in rapid succession and all with not only intimate understanding but with humour and compassion.



TWO SPEAKERS AT ONE MEETING

Two speakers were welcomed at the AGM in May. Ron Ward, Chairman of Fulbourn Community Project related the history of the Townley Memorial Hall. Using entertaining anecdotes and references to original records he described the Hall's foundation, its original purpose and the village personalities involved. He emphasised the building's present need for modernisation and improvement which the proposed redevelopment would address.

Aileen Connor, from the Archaeological Field Unit, then gave an illustrated talk about the Training dig which took place last summer at the Dunmowes moated site in Hall Orchard. Evidence of a high-prestige house was uncovered and members were encouraged to examine some of the fascinating artefacts from the site. The Society was reassured that another training dig will take place late July-August of this year, continuing and building upon last year's work.

GOLDEN JUBILEE EXHIBITION

More than 600 people visited the exhibition which took place over the Jubilee Weekend and was held in the Stables at The Manor, by kind permission of Richard & Rosemary Townley. Large information sheets told the tale of Fulbourn's expansion since 1952 and there were lots of exhibits on display to jog the memory and elicit cries of "My mum/my gran/I had one of those..." We even had a radiogram playing Victor Sylvester softly in the background. Ivy Smith and her team of helpers were on hand with afternoon teas and in the Coachman's Cottage the parish boundary map being created Village Stitches was on display, with Janet Osborne on hand to explain it to visitors. Our thanks to all who helped in any way and to everyone who visited.

JUBILEE EXHIBITION DAILY DRAW WINNERS

Saturday

Jubilee Beaker	Charles Swithinbank
2lb Terry's Gold Chocolates	Bernie Gilbertson

Sunday

Jubilee Beaker	Eve Clarke
2lb Terry's Gold Chocolates	Maurice Fenn
Bottle of wine	David Wright

Monday

Jubilee Beaker	Mrs Beecroft
2lb Terry's Gold Chocolates	Stan Hardwick
Tin of biscuits	David Smith
1lb Terry's Gold Chocolates	Mrs Mitchell

Tuesday

Jubilee Beaker	Mr Keillar
2lb Terry's Gold Chocolates	Mrs Lloyd
1lb Terry's Gold Chocolates	Maisie Cottell

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

At Cambridge & County Folk Museum, 2/3 Castle Street, Cambridge:

13 May to 1 September
To mark the Golden Jubilee
TV & Teddy Boys
A Celebration of the 1950's

12 February to 15 September 2002
Aches & Pains
Health & Hospitals in Cambridgeshire